[Tashkent]

366 443 earsplitting racket; in another street the ferries and nail smiths are at work; gold and silversmiths, shoemakers, tailors, chandlers, turners, saddlers (cf. Figure 57, p. 15a), embroiderers in silk, etc., each take a special street for themselves. The division into branches, however, is not simply limited to the general classification but even applies to the separate booths. As a rule, each merchant handles only a single article. In one booth one finds, for example, only horse saddles, in another, only harnesses for horses, in a third, only fur hats, in a fourth, only fur coats, in a fifth, only 'khalats' /wide flowing Oriental dressing gown/ etc. Among the shoemakers, one sells only riding boots, another only overshoes with leather stockings, a third only cut-out boot leather, and so on. Even in the production of the plov /pilaf/, the carrots, which must be cut into fine pieces, are not prepared by the cook himself, but are furnished already prepared by a merchant who is occupied exclusively with the cutting and sale of carrots.

[275] Of all the bazaar booths, the tea booths or 'chaikhanas' enjoy the largest number of customers, and those natives who can afford it pass the greatest part of the day in tea booths, chatting, drinking tea, smoking and playing chess. Most of the tea booths are located around the bazaar square at the intersections of the various streets which run through the [305] rows of shops. Near the tea booths are also found the booths of the barbers, insofar as they have their own shops at all; most of the barbers are ambulatory and practise their trade on the street or in the tea booths.

485 The caravansaries (1) erected in various places in the bazaar re-

1. Not Karavanserei, as it is usually written in German, for it is made up of two words, 'karavan' - "caravan", and 'sarai' - "shed".

place our hotels for the travellers in Central Asia, for hotels /165/ do not exist there. The caravansaries are open buildings for the temporary shelter of traveling merchants together with their wares, horses and camels. They consist of a roomy, quadrangular court, which /Figure 57, p. 15a. Caption: Sart saddlers at the bazaar in Tashkent/ surrounds a one or two-story building, in which there are rooms assigned for the shelter of the travelers and their wares. These are simple, windowless, smoke-blackened rooms with clay floors, containing no furniture at all, since in Central Asia every traveler carries with him all the necessary things, like beds, footrugs, drinking and cooking utensils, teapots, and the like. Tables and chairs, however, are unknown on the whole. The beasts of burden are tied up in the middle of the court,

485 where there are several water basins. The travelers receive only water in the caravansaries and, for a suitable price, fodder for their beasts; for the lodging itself nothing is paid. /Figure 58. Caption: wooden platform. / Food /166/ is not provided and the travelers must either provide their own or have it fetched from the bazaar. (Figure 59).

364 366 What strikes the European as most unpleasant in a Central Asian bazaar is the incredible filth and the intolerable stench which poisons the air everywhere. The water, which runs in countless open canals through almost all the streets, acquires, before it leaves the bazaar, an unbelievable degree of impurity so that it actually stinks. All excrement flows from the street into the canals, the inhabitants perform their incessant ablutions in them as prescribed by the Koran, horses and mangy dogs bathe in them, and the water from these same canals is not only used to sprinkle the streets, but also employed for drinking and for the preparation of food and tea, without even superficial filtering. The butchers slaughter their cattle in the middle of the street and hang the meat on the outside of their booth where it can be seen, just as in other booths clothing, silk cloth, and gold and silver jewelry is displayed. Since the meat begins to spoil in a short time in the great heat there, and futhermore, since it is always entirely covered with flies and other insects, one can imagine what sort of aroma wafts from the butcher's booth. To this is added the smoke and stench of the numerous eating houses, and the drying of the horse and camel manure lying all over the streets, for all the bazaar streets, are covered with riders and caravans from morning till night, but the dung is never removed from the streets.

3. Streets. (Figures 60 to 62, pages 169, 171, 173).

291 369 363 One would, perhaps, not believe that a stroll through the streets of a Central Asian town could be as agreeable and entertaining as, for example, here in Munich, a walk along the Maximilianstrasse. Of ladies who are the chief decoration of a European street, there one sees not a trace. Only the initiated knows that under the formless loose tunics stealing furtively through the streets here and there, under which nothing appears but a pair of feet clad in equally formless boots and overshoes, a female creature is concealed; but whether these feet belong to an eighteen year old beauty or an octogenarian Megara, only Allah knows. As for the second adornment (?) of European street

l: von Schwarz--17a N-5 (ca 1895) 1900 RL1 Turkestan RL1

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Fig. 18. Caravansary in Bukhara (after a photograph by G. Merzbacher)